

# TRICHECHUS ROSMAREUS.



## CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Dentes Primores* nulli utrinque.

*Laniarii superiores* solitarii.

*Molares* ex osse rugoso utrinque; inferius duo.

*Labia* geminata.

*Pedes* posteriores compedes coadunati in pinnam.

*Lin. Syst. Nat.* p. 49.

## CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

TRICHECHUS dentibus laniariis superioribus exsertis.

*Lin. Syst. Nat.* p. 49.

TRICHECHUS dentibus laniariis superioribus exsertis remotis.

*Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel.* p. 59.

## ROSMAREUS.

*Fonst. pisc. t.* 44.

EQUUS MARINUS f. Hippopotamus falso dictus.

*Raj. quadr.* 191.

Si externam corporis figuram spectemus, ad phocas, seu ut vulgo vocantur, vitulos marinos plurimum appropinquat Trichechus; cum quibus, si systematis naturalis habeatur ratio, recte consociatur. Color illi est atro-fuscus. Corpus pilis raris conspergitur, cuteque tegitur crassa et rugosa. Caret Trichechus omni formæ venustate. Corpus medium permagnum est, sensimque attenuatur ad caudam brevissimam. Caput maxime rotundatum et breve est: labia crassissima; vibrissæque exinde utrinque crescentes pellucidæ sunt, et stramineæ crassitudinis. Maxillæ superiori insunt dentes duo longissimi, maximi, acuti, deorsum tendentes. In longitudinem multorum pedum, aliquando etiam viginti crescit Trichechus Rosmarus.

Hujusmodi bestiarum, hominum conspectum et consortium longe fugientium, perfectam morum vitæque rationis notitiam frustra desideramus; quam sane assequi non licet physicis nisi frequenti visu sedulaque mansuetiorum animalium observatione. Plurima, ut ait perelegans scriptor, in deserto horrido, ingentique pelago perficiuntur opera, quæ perspicacissimum hominum acumen semper effugient. Nihil igitur novimus de Trichechorum vita et moribus præter quod narraverint navigatores qui illos in secessibus suis temporariis apud insulas glaciæ mari Arctico fluitantes, vel in littoribus Septentrionalibus conspexerint. Gregatim degunt Trichechi, turmisque maximis in littora ad dormiendum conveniunt. Pugnacissimo sunt ingenio, et enormibus dentibus sævissima vulnera inter mutua certamina

certamina sibi invicem infligunt. Vox eorum est ingens rugitus. Præstant fortitudine, et hominum impetum dira vi repellere solent. In regionibus Arcticis ob oleum pinguedinemque copiosissimam occiduntur. Dentes quoque magno sunt in pretio, qui vel ebur superant robore: eboris tamen color longe stabilior.







A.W.

THE  
ARCTIC WALRUS.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

*Tusks* in the upper jaw, large, and pointing downwards.

*Grinders* four on both sides, above and below.

*Cutting teeth* none.

*Feet* palmated.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

WALRUS with long tusks remote from each other.

The ARCTIC WALRUS.

*Penn'. Quadr.* 2. p. 266.

*Arctic Zoology.* n. 71. p. 144.

The Morfe, Sea-Horfe, or WALRUS.

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The Walrus is one of those animals which in general shape and appearance make a near approach to the Seal or sea-calf, and in a natural arrangement of quadrupeds must of necessity be disposed in the same tribe. The color of this animal is a darkish brown:

brown: the body is thinly scattered with hair, and the skin is thick and wrinkled. The shape of the Walrus is extremely uncouth; it is very thick in the middle, and gradually lessens towards the tail, which is very short: the head is remarkably short and round; the lips very thick, and the vibriffæ or whiskers consist of transparent bristles as thick as straws. In the upper jaw are two very long, large, acuminate tusks, pointing downwards. The Walrus grows to the length of several feet, and has sometimes been found not far short of twenty feet in length.

Of animals whose habitations and retreats are so far removed from the general haunts of mankind, we must not expect to obtain that exact knowledge with respect to their ways of life which creatures of a more accessible nature permit us to discover. Innumerable stratagems, says an elegant writer, are acted in the gloomy wilderness and in the great deep, which must for ever elude human investigation. All that is known of the general habits of the Walrus is derived from the accounts of navigators and others who have observed them during their temporary abodes either on the floating islands of ice in the northern ocean, or on the frozen coasts of the arctic regions. They are gregarious animals; and sometimes assemble in multitudes on the coasts to sleep. They are of a very pugnacious disposition, and with their enormous teeth inflict the most grievous wounds on each other during their contests. Their voice is a loud roar. They are possessed



uffed of great courage, and resist with dreadful violence the attacks of mankind. They are killed in the northern regions for the sake of their oil, which is extremely plentiful: their teeth are also considered as a valuable article of commerce, being in strength at least equal, if not superior to ivory; their color however is not so lasting.